

# Lamorinda Community

## Calendar, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 7	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, September 23	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center Room 7 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, October 8	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way Thursday, October 9	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, October 6	

check online:  
Town of Orinda:  
<http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/>  
• all meeting notes  
• calendar updates

Chamber of Commerce:  
<http://www.orindachamber.org/>  
• local businesses  
• upcoming events



**Purse theft, 9/11/08** A nanny was dropping off her charge at Wagner Ranch school when her purse was stolen. She parked the vehicle and left it unlocked and walked the child onto campus. Upon her return just a few minutes later, the purse was gone. No sign of forced entry. Estimated total loss \$640 - black purse, cell phone and \$300 cash.

**Drunk in public, 9/10/08** A 39-year-old white male was in front of the Safeway at just after 6:00 in the evening. He was contacted by one of Orinda's finest. The subject showed objective signs of alcohol intoxication; his blood alcohol level was more than double the legal limit. He was picked up for a probation violation in addition to being drunk in public. Isn't it better to shop sober?

**Petty theft, 9/10/08** A neighbor saw a white male in his twenties snooping around his Longview Terrace elderly neighbor's car at 5:30 in the morning. Concerned neighbor confronted fellow with a flashlight, at which point the suspect exited the vehicle and ran toward Orchard Road. Only \$3 was missing from the car. Subject was wearing baggy jeans and a white t-shirt and smelled of Axe cologne. "Axe burglar?"

## Orinda Community Spirit on the Rise—Candidates for City Council Weigh in on Why

By Andrea A. Firth

Over the past year, Orinda has experienced a renaissance in community spirit. More Orindans are volunteering for causes, committees, and task forces to address the important issues that impact their City. More Orindans are regularly coming together in the streets and downtown areas to events that celebrate holidays, shopping, the arts, and their great City. Why now? What has moved Orindans from the comforts of their beautiful hillside homes to join forces in the heart of the City?

As part of The Lamorinda Weekly's ongoing election coverage, we asked the candidates for City Council, incumbents Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer and new-

comer Dr. Bob Larsen, to explain why they feel the community has made more of an effort to get to "know itself" recently and what it means for Orinda.

Victoria Smith attributes the increased community spirit and excitement in Orinda to two reasons: the combined efforts of many residents on recent road bond measure campaigns and the City's collaboration with community groups on a number of key events.

"Although we were not successful in passing a road bond measure, a substantial majority of the citizens of Orinda favored the measures and the two road bond campaigns involved hundreds of volunteers and brought people together to have a serious discussion

about the values of Orinda and what needs to be done to come up with the funds to fix our roads," states Smith. "Our joint efforts [with community groups] have resulted in a number of great events like the weekly Farmers Market, the "Shop Orinda" campaign, the "Orinda Salutes Cal Shakes" event, and the wonderful donated art in our library plaza," she adds.

Steve Glazer has seen and felt the increase in community involvement in his community. "We are seeing a great positive spirit and make-it-happen energy in Orinda, and it's electrifying," states Glazer. "The school community has always led the way with volunteerism, but we are now seeing that commitment and energy expand to im-



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proving civic life," he adds.

Bob Larsen is all for Orinda's renewed community spirit and feels the upcoming Orinda Restaurant Tour is another good idea. "Individual businesses can participate in showcasing our town as well," states Larsen. "Consider the example being made by Ron Bonner of the Orinda House who has live music at a restaurant venue. No need to travel to Yoshi's," he adds. However, Larsen suggests that "for

real success" the City should update their plan to include more attractive sites for Orindans to patronize. "While planning we must remember two special populations, seniors and teens," adds Larsen. "Our older residents are often ignored. Kids don't call this Borinda for no reason. New ideas can only help fuel the spirit."

Lee Borrowman contributed to this article.

## Moraga Way Done and Dust No Longer

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda City Council members (centered from left to right) Tom McCormick, Steve Glazer, Mayor Victoria Smith, and Sue Severson flanked by two helpful workers cut the proverbial ribbon to commemorate the successful completion of the Moraga Way Pavement and Rehabilitation Project  
Photo Tod Fierner

Orinda City staff, dignitaries, and residents gathered last Thursday to celebrate the successful completion—on time and within budget—of the Moraga Way Pavement Rehabilitation Project. To avoid creating a traffic bottleneck, the ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the newly minted stretch of road was conducted at Orinda Oaks Park.

The improvements to Moraga Way, on a 3.2-mile segment between Camino Encinas south to Ivy Drive south, took about four months to complete. Much of the most invasive road

repair work was done throughout the middle of the night to minimize the impact on daytime traffic. The road works were funded in large part through a Surface Transportation Program grant (totaling \$1.14 million) and an additional incentive grant from the California Integrated Waste Man-

agement Board. Environmentally friendly rubberized asphalt concrete was used to pave the road, which helped to divert over 160,000 tires from landfills. The rubberized asphalt provides the added benefit of a quieter ride reducing road noise by an estimated five to eight decibels.

## Orinda Pursues PDA Designation

By Andrea A. Firth

At their meeting on September 2nd, the Orinda City Council decided to move forward with their efforts to apply for the designation of Downtown Orinda as a Priority Development Area (PDA). "This designation opens the city up for eligibility for potential funding and grants," explained Orinda City Planner Emmanuel Ursu.

PDAs are defined as areas that seek to accommodate growth as mixed use, infill development near transit and job centers, with an emphasis on housing. Orinda's proximity to BART and projected development projects appear to fit the definition to the letter, and Ursu reported to the Council that he anticipated their application would be approved. PDAs are part of a regional planning initiative to encourage future development patterns that are compact, transit oriented, and responsive to the need for housing in the Bay Area.

The discussion of the PDA application also included a review of the status of the Planning Process of Review Task Force (PPRTF), which has been spearheaded by City Council members Amy Worth and Tom McCormick. The PPRTF is one of the several task forces established by this Council over the

past year. The goal of the group is to come up with recommendations for a streamlined, objective, user-friendly planning review process. Council member Worth reported that the task force's work had made steady progress and that several recommended changes were under review.

Preliminary recommendations will be presented to the Planning Commission in November of December of this year.

Another item to note: The City Council proclaimed September as National Preparedness Month for the City of Orinda. "Orinda is joining cities across the nation to build awareness about the importance of being prepared," stated Mayor Victoria Smith.

"[It's] a useful reminder about our responsibility to be able to fend for ourselves during a disaster," added Orinda Public Safety Advisory Committee Chair Bruce Macler. "We want Orindans to ask themselves the question 'Am I ready?' Then make sure they are," he said. "Even more we want those with the capacity and wherewithal to help others to be ready in advance, so that in the event of an emergency, they can offer assistance to those who are unable to help themselves."

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—Jane Swim

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